

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 PRS-01 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:MNEFF:MN

APPROVED BY PA/M:WDYESS

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MARLISE SIMONS BYLINER WASHINGTON
POST WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 1 HEADED "MEXICO IS TENSE AS IT
PREPARES FOR THE INAUGURATION."

2. A WAVE OF BOMBINGS IN THE NIGHT, CONTINUED PEASANT
TAKEOVERS OF LARGE LANDHOLDINGS AND A STATE OF FULL POLICE
ALERT SET MEXICO ON EDGE TODAY AS FOREIGN DIGNITARIES
ARRIVED FOR THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW PRESIDENT WEDNESDAY.

3. THE FOUR BOMB BLASTS, BLAMED BY AUTHORITIES ON LEFTIST
TERRORISTS, INJURED TWO PERSONS AND CAUSED AN ESTIMATED
\$100,000 DAMAGE TO WIDELY SCATTERED BUILDINGS IN THE
CAPITAL.

4. SECURITY PERCAUTIONS WERE TIGHTENED AS ROSALYNN CARTER,
WIFE OF PRESIDENT ELECT JIMMY CARTER, ARRIVED HERE THIS
AFTERNOON TO JOIN SOME 1,200 OTHER FOREIGN GUESTS ATTENDING
THE INAUGURATION.

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5. PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA COULD NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY SUCCEED HIMSELF, HAS PRODUCED A TUMULTUOUS CHANGE-OF-COMMAND BY ORDERING EXPROPRIATIONS OF LARGE FARMS, GIVING THEM TO PEASANTS, AND BY DEVALUING THE LONG STABLE MEXICAN PESO.

6. IN RECENT DAYS ECHEVERRIA HAS PUBLICLY DENIED RUMORS THAT A MILITARY COUP WOULD BE STAGED BEFORE THE INAUGURATION. WHILE HIS OWN FUTURE POLITICAL PLANS ARE NOT KNOWN, HE HAS OFFERED HIMSELF AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

7. MRS. CARTER AND LADYBIRD JOHNSON HAVE COME TO THE INAUGURATION AT THE INVITATION OF THE WIFE OF INCOMING PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.

8. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER HEADS AN OFFICIAL U.S. DELEGATION THAT INCLUDES UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM D. ROGERS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARRY SHLAUDEMAN, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD (D-MONT.) AND PRESIDENT FORD'S SON, JACK FORD.

9. BUT THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS AS WELL AS FOREIGN OFFICIALS IS CENTERED ON MRS. CARTER, WHO IS MAKING HER FIRST DIPLOMATIC TRIP ABROAD SINCE HER HUSBAND WON THE ELECTION NOV. 2.

10. KISSINGER IS CARRYING ON DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES AFTER SPENDING FIVE DAYS WITH HIS WIFE, NANCY, IN ACAPULCO, A MEXICAN RESORT. LAST NIGHT KISSINGER MET FOR NEARLY AN HOUR WITH ECHEVERRIA. THIS MORNING FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS ROMULO OF THE PHILIPPINES MET WITH KISSINGER AT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

11. ACCORDING TO A MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, ECHEVERRIA AND KISSINGER TALKED OF "WORLD PROBLEMS." THE SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER THE TWO HAD DISCUSSED ECHEVERRIA'S BID FOR THE OFFICE OF U.S. SECRETARY GENERAL.

12. YESTERDAY THE OUTGOING MEXICAN PRESIDENT WHO HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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SPENT MUCH TIME AND ENERGY ON A FOREIGN POLICY MARKED BY ITS THIRD WORLD FERVOR, SENT A LETTER TO THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL OFFERING HIS CANDIDACY. THE COUNCIL IS TO MEET FRIDAY TO RECOMMEND ITS CHOICE FOR SECRETARY GENERAL. KURT WALDHEIM, WHOSE FIRST FIVE-YEAR TERMS ENDS DEC. 31, IS EXPECTED TO BE CHOSEN FOR A SECOND TERM.

13. THE LETTER CAME AS A SURPRISE IN MEXICAN POLITICAL

CIRCLES, WHERE IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT ECHEVERRIA HAD GIVEN UP HOPE FOR THE POST.

14. "I HAVE RECEIVED THE GOOD WILL AND SUPPORT OF NUMEROUS MEMBER STATES FROM DIFFERENT REGIONAL GROUPS FOR MY CANDIDACY," ECHEVERRIA'S LETTER SAID. "THEREFORE I ASK YOU TO TAKE NOTE THAT FROM 1 DECEMBER ONWARD ... I SHALL BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE MEMBER NATIONS OF THE U.N."

15. LAST NIGHT'S BOMBINGS HAVE PUT THE NERVES OF PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL FURTHER ON EDGE. MEXICO CITY HAS BEEN BESET BY UNLIKELY AND ALARMING RUMORS, RANGING FROM AN IMPENDING COUP TO ATTEMPTS ON THE LIVES OF ECHEVERRIA'S WIFE AND CHILDREN.

16. POLICE HAVE BLAMED THE 23D OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE FOR THE BOMBINGS, AS THEY HAVE ALL RECENT URBAN TERRORIST ACTION, BUT THEY HAVE OFFERED NO PROOF.

17. FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S MASSIVE EXPROPRIATION OF LAND-HOLDINGS BY THE GOVERNMENT IN MEXICO'S NORTHERN FARM BELT, A GROUP OF NEARLY 1,000 PEASANTS BELONGING TO AN INDEPENDENT FEDERATION HAS OCCUPIED SOME 30 LARGE ESTATES IN THE STATE OF DURANGO. THE PEASANTS CLAIM THE ESTATES ARE LARGER THAN PERMITTED BY LAW AND THEY DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATE THESE ALSO.

18. IN THE STATE OF JALISCO, NORTHWEST OF MEXICO CITY, ANOTHER 24 ESTATES ARE BEING HELD BY LANDLESS PEASANTS WHO DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT FINALLY ACT ON THEIR PETITIONS FOR LAND, FILED MANY YEARS AGO.

19. MRS. CARTER WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT TODAY BY MEXICO'S UNCLASSIFIED

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FUTURE FIRST LADY, CARMEN LOPEZ PORTILLO, WHO IS ACTING AS HER HOSTESS AND WILL ACCOMPANY MRS. CARTER ON A VISIT TO MEXICO'S FAMED MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

20. TONIGHT THE LOPEZ PORTILLOS ARE GIVING A PRIVATE DINNER AT THEIR HOME, WHERE MRS. CARTER REPORTEDLY WILL GIVE THEM A LETTER FROM HER HUSBAND. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, INAUGURATION, SECURITY, PRESS RELEASES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE292946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MNEFF:MN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-0603
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761281/aaaacstt.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, MX, WASHINGTON POST, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SIMONS, MARLISE),
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006